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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Record harvest estimated for 2013 *Maha* season paddy and maize crops
- Below average cereal harvest in 2012
- Prices of rice and wheat remain generally high but stable
- Overall food security situation has improved but food insecurity persists for vulnerable groups

Record harvest estimated for 2013 *Maha* season paddy and maize crops

Harvesting of the 2013 main season (*Maha*) paddy and maize crops was completed in April. The season was characterized by heavy rains between early November and February which caused localized flooding particularly in North Central, Northern, Eastern and Uva (in the south) provinces. Preliminary official estimates, as of mid-March, indicate that approximately 78 903 hectares of rice crop, representing about 6 percent of the estimated total rice plantings in 2013, have been affected due to the floods.

This season's paddy production is anticipated at 2.7 million tonnes, similar to last year's record level of the same season. Similarly, maize harvest of the 2013 *Maha* season is officially estimated to reach a record level at 218 558 tonnes, some 32 percent up on previous year's bumper harvest of the same season. The increase in harvest is predominantly attributed to an expansion in planted area by 52 percent.

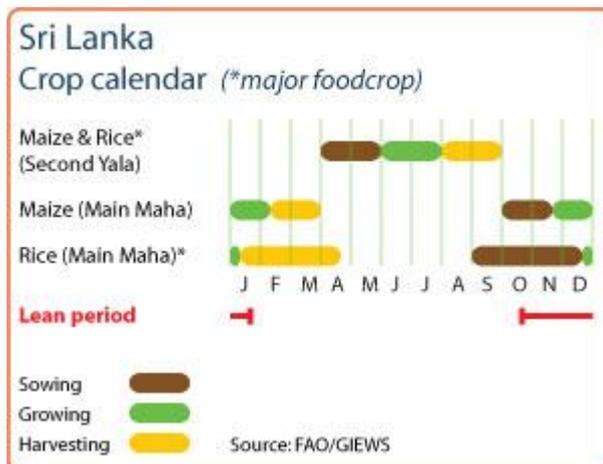
Currently, the 2013 secondary season *Yala* paddy and maize crops, sown from April to May, are growing under generally favourable weather conditions in most regions of the country. Assuming normal weather during the secondary season, the 2013 aggregate paddy production is anticipated at 4.1 million tonnes, a recovery of 6.6 percent from last year's drought affected output.

Below average cereal harvest in 2012

The 2012 aggregate cereal production has been revised downwards to 4.08 million tonnes, similar to the previous five-year average. In aggregate, the 2012 paddy production is estimated at 3.8 million tonnes, some 1.2 percent below the flood affected crop in 2011.

The decrease in production is mainly attributed to significant damages to second (*Yala*) season harvest, following the prolonged drought conditions between June and September. The 2012 maize crop, is officially estimated to reach at 223 000 tonnes, pointing to an increase of 21 percent over the 2011 record harvest.

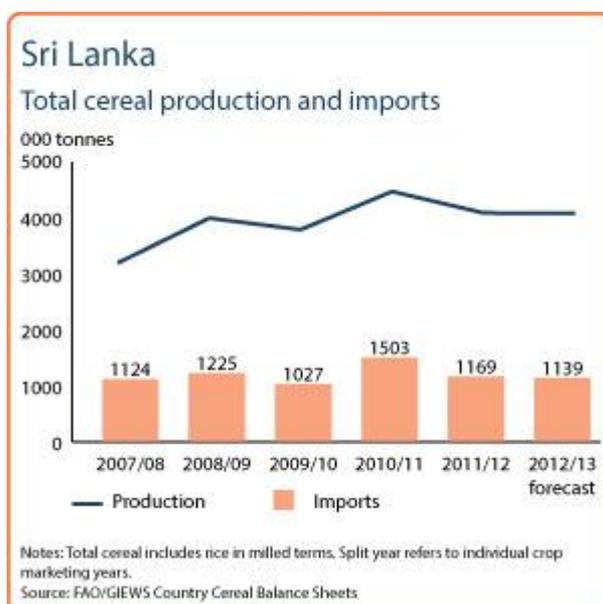
In response to the good production in 2012, the cereal import requirement in the 2013 marketing year (January/December) is forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, slightly lower than the previous year's level. As a result of bumper paddy harvest in recent years, the country is near self-sufficiency in rice. Since wheat is not produced, the country imports all of its consumption requirements, forecast for 2013 at normal level of about 1.1 million tonnes.



Sri Lanka Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	3 914	3 846	4 100	7
Maize	162	223	252	13
Millet	7	7	7	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	4 083	4 076	4 359	7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Prices of rice and wheat remain generally high but stable

The price of rice, which has been on steady rise between June 2012 and February 2013, remained generally stable since, following satisfactory supplies from the 2013 main season *Maha* paddy harvest. In the capital city market the retail price of rice in June 2013 was 13.5 percent higher compared to the level a year ago.

The price of wheat flour, which is normally regulated, has been relatively stable since December 2012. In June 2013, it averaged LKR 98.6 (about USD 0.76) per kg, some 5.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

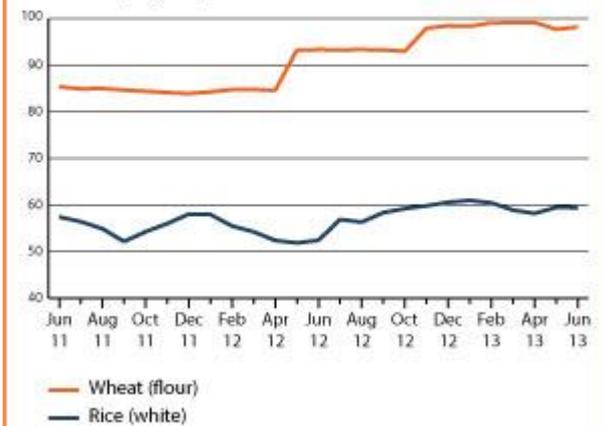
Overall food security situation has improved but food insecurity persists for vulnerable groups

The food security situation has improved after the end of the 25-year old war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government forces in May 2009. Most of the IDP camps are now closed but still some 93 482 people were estimated to be displaced as of January 2013, based on Government statistics compiled by UNHCR, living mostly with host families. The floods between November and February, affected over 400 000 people and is further exacerbating the situation of already vulnerable population particularly in Northern and Eastern regions of the country.

Sri Lanka

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Colombo

Sri Lanka Rupee per Kg



Source: Department of Census and Statistics